

APA/GCPD Accessibility Awards Program

Submission Guidelines



Presented annually by the
Accessibility Professionals Association (APA)
and the
Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD)

The Annual APA/GCPD Accessibility Awards program recognizes businesses, property owners, and organizations that go Above and Beyond the legal requirements in terms of both *physical and service* accessibility.

GOAL:

To honor projects that implement universal design principles, program access, and physical and service accessibility which go beyond the minimum legal requirements.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

Deadline for submissions is **September 30** each year; nominations must be received or postmarked by that date.

Nominators (*self-nominations are encouraged*) must complete the formal Entry Form and submit in an electronic or print format, including payment of the **entry application fee of \$50**. The Entry Form and any supporting documents (high-resolution digital photos, news articles, brochures, press releases, etc) can be sent by Fax, E-Mail, or Postal Mail. The entry application fee must be delivered by Postal Mail or in person in the form of a Check or Money Order. Forms and fees can be sent to:

Accessibility Professionals Association

ATTN: Shirley Knox, APA Executive Director
3355 Bee Cave Road, Suite 301B
Austin, TX 78746
FAX: 512-327-4937

OR

Accessibility Professionals Association

ATTN: Fred Cawyer, RAS
3819 Towne Crossing Blvd Suite 111
Mesquite, TX 75150
fredcawyer@aol.com

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Properties eligible for the APA/GCPD Accessibility Award include (but are not limited to):

- Publicly or privately owned buildings or facilities

- Sites which are leased or occupied by a state agency
- Sites open to the public, including churches, hotels, parks, museums, restaurants, etc
- Commercial facilities, including shopping centers or stores, gyms, movie theaters, etc

Nominated sites must be subject to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) Architectural Barriers (Removal) Division Program, and designed and constructed to be compliant with at least minimum accessibility compliance with the 1994 or the 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards, as applicable.

Eligible sites must also have been plan-reviewed and inspected by a State of Texas Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS) who is a **member in good standing of the Accessibility Professionals Association (APA)**.

JUDGING PROCESS:

Deadline for submissions is **September 30** each year; nominations must be received or postmarked by that date.

Upon receipt of nominations, each entry will be vetted to ensure that required criteria are in place. Then Site Visit Teams will be set up to inspect each eligible property. One or more Registered Accessibility Specialists (RAS) will inspect the site for **physical accessibility** that goes beyond the legal requirements, and a representative of the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) will inspect the site for **service accessibility**, noting Above and Beyond accommodations such as easily available braille documents and ASL interpreters, the staff's familiarity with People First language and disability etiquette, innovative accommodations, etc. (NOTE: GCPD has a document called ***Above and Beyond: Service Accessibility*** available in various formats available upon request by email or postal mail)

Site Visit Teams will coordinate a convenient time to meet with the site manager or owner for a tour of the property or site. Site visits usually take about an hour. Site Visit Teams file their reports with APA and GCPD and their findings are considered by representatives of both organizations in determining recipients of the annual APA/GCPD Accessibility Awards.

Winners and other entrants will be contacted as soon as the recipients of the award are determined. Winners will be recognized in Press Releases from APA and from the Governor's Press Office, as well as in electronic announcements to networks of organizations and individuals and in postings online at the APA and the GCPD websites.

Winners are presented with a formal Proclamation signed by the Governor at the Annual Accessibility Professionals Association Conference, held mid-January in Austin.

*****Deadline for Submissions is September 30*****

For more information and to access the Entry Form:

Accessibility Professionals Association
<http://www.accessibilityprofessionals.org/>
 512-415-5938

Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/awards/apa_gcpd_accessibility_awards
 512-463-5739